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THE
RISE *and* PROGRESS
OF THE
FOUNDLING
HOSPITAL
CONSIDERED:

AND

The REASONS for putting a Stop to
the GENERAL RECEPTION of ALL
CHILDREN.

L O N D O N :

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THE
RISE *and* PROGRESS
OF THE
FOUNDLING-HOSPITAL
CONSIDERED.

N all free countries, where the subjects claim a right to examine into the merits of every political question, they are generally inquisitive to know the nature of such transactions as concern the lives of the people, or have a tendency to increase or

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lessen those annual supplies, which it is necessary to raise in every kingdom for the support of government. That I may gratify this curiosity, which is always commendable, and has upon many occasions been found useful, I have taken my pen in hand, to draw out in the following sheets a short account of the *Foundling-Hospital*, and of what passed in Parliament the last sessions relative to that subject.

It may seem, at first view, a little strange, that the same men who agreed to take all foundlings under their protection in 1756, should in less than four years, come to a resolution that no more children (except those already admitted into the Hospital) should be maintained at the public expence: I shall therefore endeavour to explain the motives of their conduct to the nation in general, and
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clear the Guardians of our Liberty from this apparent inconsistency.

GENERAL rules of policy, and that humanity for which the *English* have been in all times famous, were the chief motives which induced Parliament ~~to~~ extend the Hospital so much beyond its original plan; and, as far as speculative wisdom could foresee, there was reason to believe that many evils, which had been long complained of, would be cured by this important step. The experiment was tried, but what appeared fair and specious in theory, could not be reduced to practice without numberless inconveniencies, and a long train of mischiefs, greater even than those it was intended to prevent, insomuch that what was at first only a local evil, was in great danger of becoming a national one.

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THAT numbers of inhabitants are the riches of every country, is a proposition of that nature, which barely to mention is sufficiently to prove. What therefore this scheme had, or was likely to cost the public, on a supposition that it considerably increased the number of the people, must be laid quite out of the question ; and whether it had or had not that effect, in what manner it operated on the morals of the common people, and whether it threatened to break in upon any of the fundamental principles of government, are the great points to be enquired into.

BEFORE I enter into a particular consideration of the nature, tendency, and success of this institution, it may not be altogether unnecessary, for the sake of those who have not turned their minds to the subject, to say a word or two of the
Origin

Origin and Progress of the *Foundling-Hospital*; to shew with what view it was first set on foot, why it was afterwards enlarged, and how far it has or has not answered all the good purposes for which it was intended.

A NUMBER of Ladies, no less distinguished for their humanity and benevolence, than their high birth and titles, presented a petition to his Majesty for a Charter; and this was followed by another of the like nature signed by many Noblemen and Gentlemen, actuated on this occasion by the same noble motives: in consequence of these a Charter was obtained, and that afterwards confirmed, and the powers of it enlarged, by an act of Parliament. By the assistance of these a corporation was established, and a subscription begun, and children were first taken in at *Lady-Day* 1741. It was hoped

hoped by this humane and truly Christian institution, that the frequent murders said to have been committed by the mothers of poor miserable infants to hide their shame, and the inhuman custom of exposing new-born children to perish in the streets, or training them up in idleness, or to beggary and theft, would be in a good measure prevented.

FROM *Lady-Day* 1741, to *June* 1756, the Hospital was supported by private subscriptions only, and no more than 1384 children were taken in during all that time, and at the expiration of it 614 were left alive in the Hospital.

IT being found by experience that the fund arising from private subscriptions was not in any degree adequate to the end proposed, and that great numbers brought to the Hospital every year were
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on that account refused admittance, Parliament took it under consideration, and from the time above-mentioned to *Lady-day* 1760, all children brought to the Hospital were maintained there at the public expence, and the numbers admitted annually amounted to about four thousand.

As the numbers encreased in the Hospital, the proportion of deaths gradually encreased likewise, so that out of 3019 infants taken in from *January* 1759 to *Michaelmas* of the same year, there died 1469 *viz.* above 48 out of a hundred in three quarters of a year *of those children only who had been taken in during that time.* Whereas from a careful examination of the registers of 19 country villages in seven different and distant counties for ten years past, it was found that the proportion of deaths of children under two years

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old did not amount to quite 13 out of a hundred. In the great Parishes of *St. Michael's, Coventry*, and *St. Philip's, Birmingham**, the proportion did not exceed 25 out of 100; and even in the bills of mortality of *London* and *Westminster*, which include the workhouses, the deaths of children under two years of age, had not on average of 30 years arisen to above 58 out of 100, and yet that number was considerably decreased since the year 1751, when the additional duty on spirituous liquors took place, though you leave out of the account those years from 1756, during which the Hospital was open to all children; which must have had a considerable effect on the bills of mortality, because the children who die in the Hospital are not included in them, being buried in the parish of *Pancras*.

* The account of the mortality of *St. Philip's, Birmingham*, was for one year only.

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FROM comparing these estimates together, it is plain, that children taken out of the country-villages, were brought from dying in the proportion of less than 13 out of a hundred, and those from the great towns in not more than 25 out of 100, under two years old, to die in the shocking proportion of 48 out of 100 in three quarters of a year, and as the deaths of the *Foundling-Hospital* had gone on encreasing every year from 1756, there is some reason to believe that if the Hospital had continued longer upon, the extensive plan of taking in all children, the mortality would have become much greater than it was. When to all this you add the numbers who died in coming to Town, and who were therefore not included in the Hospital-account of deaths, and that all this mischief has arisen to the public at an immense national expence, (an expence which was every year encreasing)

can there remain a doubt in the breast of any sensible man, any man of humanity, whether we ought to proceed any longer on a scheme, which has been found by experience to be so destructive to the people of this country ?

ADMITTING all these evils to have attended the taking children out of the country, it will perhaps be asked if no advantage might be derived from confining the Hospital to children born within the bills of mortality ? In answer to this I would recommend it to the serious consideration of those who are not satisfied on that point, whether if such a design were practicable, any children would be saved to the public, and whether on comparing the deaths of the Hospital above-mentioned with those of the London bills of mortality, there is not some reason to fear that it would have a quite contrary effect, and
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if the matter were only doubtful, the great expence it would be to try the experiment, ought to deter us from advancing a large sum without a reasonable prospect of success.

BUT supposing the mortality of the *London* children were much greater than that of the *Foundling-Hospital*, who will be able to draw the line of distinction, so as to confine the charity to objects within that description, and prevent others from being brought out of the country ; I know, of no method can be found out to guard against frauds, and direct the judgment of the Governors in what manner to proceed in cases of that sort, especially whilst secrecy, which some think essential to the notion of a *Foundling-Hospital*, continues to be observed.

GREAT, however, as the mortality of the *Foundling-Hospital* certainly is, the
horrible

horrible descriptions that have been given of the *London* workhouses, induced many people to believe that numbers of lives might be saved to the public, if the children, who are annually sent to those places, and those only, could be taken into the *Foundling-Hospital*. But since further lights have been thrown upon the question, and accounts of the mortality of the *London* workhouses laid before Parliament, it appears that those who were most sanguine in this opinion, were misled by common report, and had never examined into the material facts; for there is now reason to believe, that near half of those children who were supposed to have been dead, because not found alive in the workhouses, were actually returned to their parents, and on the number of those that remained in all the *London* workhouses, the mortality was not great enough to put it out of doubt, whether the above-mentioned scheme be eligible or not.

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BUT there is another difficulty remaining, which I will endeavour to state fully in order to give it a satisfactory answer. Of what kind are the children taken into the *Foundling-Hospital*? Are they such as would have had a tolerable chance for life, if they had not been sent there? Or is the Hospital a refuge for those only who without such relief would have been starved from penury, murdered by their parents to avoid shame, or exposed to perish in the streets? No instance has ever yet come to my knowledge of a child dying through want under the eye of its parent, and in this land of plenty and of charity, I may venture to affirm, it is a thing scarcely ever heard of. Credible accounts of children being exposed to die in the streets, so as to escape the attention of the Parish-officers, whose duty it is to provide for them if found living, are not often to be met with, and the murders of
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bastard-children happen so very rarely in the country, that I am confident the many who have perished by hunger and cold, carelessly packed up in carriers wag-gons to be sent to the Hospital, greatly exceeded the number of those who were murdered out of *London* before the Hos-pital was open. As to murders within the bills of mortality in town, it is not to be imagined that accidents of that sort are frequent enough to justify the keep-ing a *Foundling-Hospital* open for all the *London* children that would be sent there ; you might perhaps annually save twenty children, and take in 2000 to have a less chance of life than they would have had out of the Hospital, so as upon the whole to occasion a loss of children to the public.

THAT infants are not so frequently murdered in town, as is generally be-lieved, is an opinion not founded alto-
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gether on speculation ; for I am credibly informed, by a justice of peace in *London*, of great experience and integrity, that on accounts being published of children found murdered and thrown on dung-hills, he has often made strict enquiry into the truth of them, and that he only once saw two children exposed in that manner, and they, upon examination, had marks that plainly shewed they had been made use of by surgeons for anatomical purposes ; all the other reports he enquired into appeared to have been stories invented to serve particular purposes, and to have had no real foundation.

THE reader will observe, that the foregoing argument supposes that all or many of these kind of murders have been prevented by the *Foundling-Hospital*, which is very far from being a clear point, as it is often extremely difficult to convey a

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child there, especially from the country, without endangering the reputation of the mother in the place where she resides; the preservation of which, is always the strongest, if not the only motive to crimes of that nature.

THAT poverty is not the occasion of sending children to the *Foundling-Hospital* is manifest, because when the age prescribed by the governors was altered from two to four, and afterwards to twelve months, there was little or no encrease in the number sent, tho' the expence of maintaining children is greater as they advance in age; and it is probable, that many parents of children six and twelve months old must have been poor and necessitous, as well as of those who were not arrived at those ages.

ALLOWING for a very few who might have been murdered, it is reasonable to
 imagine

imagine from what I have said, that the *Foundling-Hospital* consists chiefly of such children as were sent there by their mothers to avoid shame, or of those whose parents were tempted by idleness to give up the care of their own offspring. In either of these cases most of them would have been suckled by their own mothers, (as the greatest part of the children of the common people generally are) and probably had a better chance for life than the children of the gentleman, the merchant, and the tradesman, (always included in bills of mortality) many of which are dry nursed, and scarce one of them, thro' the prevailing influence of custom, have the benefit of that nourishment which nature has provided for them in the breasts of their own mothers.

HAVING represented the mortality of the *Foundling-Hospital* to be very great, it

is natural to ask, whether this is to be attributed to any neglect in the governors, or to unavoidable accidents which cannot be guarded against for the future.

I DON'T mean to lay any blame on the governors; they are men of independent fortunes, who have voluntarily taken these trusts upon themselves, from which they can derive no advantage; and are certainly not chargeable with the ill success of the Hospital, in the opinion of any honest dispassionate man who has given himself the trouble to enquire into their conduct.

To explain myself on this head, let it be considered that it is impossible for large corporations (whose members often draw different ways, and are seldom unanimous in their opinions upon any question) to exert themselves with the same degree

degree of attention in public business, as is commonly to be found among individuals, in the management of their own private affairs ; nor can the same person be equally exact, whose mind is distracted by a great variety of objects, as when the whole force of it is confined to one point only. Apply this kind of reasoning to the *Foundling-Hospital*, and compare the situation of a child sent there, with what it would probably have been if it had continued under the eye of the mother. In the latter case, the health of the infant depends on one person only, whose care is spurred on by natural affection, the strongest principle in human nature, and therefore not likely to be diverted to any other object ; whereas, in the former, the child is sent to the Hospital by a person who is perhaps a stranger to it, passes thro' the hands of two or three servants who have numbers to oversee
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when it gets there, and is afterwards committed to a different person to be carried into the country in company with many others, and then to be delivered to a nurse who frequently undertakes to give suck to two or three *Foundlings* at the same time, or has a child of her own, to whose interest that of the hireling will always be postponed, when they come in competition. Through so many different hands is a child to pass, upon the care of so many different persons, bound by no tie either of interest or affection, must its health depend, when it hangs as it were by a single thread, and by reason of its tender age, a daily, a nightly, and almost an hourly care, is but just sufficient to preserve it from the numberless little yet fatal accidents which human nature is liable to at the beginning of life.

IN treating a subject of this sort, it is necessary to say a word or two of wet nursing.

nursing. When the Hospital was first set on foot, the Physicians who attended it entertained a notion, that they had discovered a diet not only proper to supply the place of breast-milk, but even preferable to it in some respects; they found, however, by experience, what they might have known without it, that they were not wiser than nature, that is to say, that God is wiser than man. For out of 26 children wet-nursed, there died only five within the year, that is less than one fifth; whereas out of 64 children dry-nursed, 34 died in the same time, *viz.* above one half. Now the experiment has been tried, and the inference that is to be drawn from it confirmed by the opinion of Sir *H. Sloane*, an able man in his profession, who declared that out of all the children he had known dry-nursed in a course of above 50 years, two out of 3 had constantly died, notwithstanding all that he or any of the Faculty could
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do to save them; I am confident that there is no physician in the present age, and it is to be hoped, for the benefit of mankind, that no one will arise in any future times, ingenious enough to dispute against a plain matter of fact.

SUPPOSING the great consequence of breast-milk in the nursing of young children to be sufficiently proved by the foregoing experiment and authority, it is to be presumed that the difficulty of getting wet-nurses is another principal cause of the mortality of the *Foundling-Hospital*. What becomes of the mothers of the 4000 children annually sent there at the time of the general reception? It is natural to imagine that those women who give up their offspring from the fear of shame, always dry up their milk, and remove themselves into a distant county where they are not known, in hopes of preserving their reputations; those who are so profligate

prostitute as to abandon their own offspring, from a worse principle, that of idleness, are not likely to become good wet-nurses to young Foundlings (supposing them to be so at all) children to whom they owe no natural affection, children from whom they can expect no future returns of gratitude, or protection. This being the case, where are proper nurses to be got for the 4000 Foundlings? Reason states this difficulty, and the calculations of the Hospital prove that it is not an imaginary one, for the mortality of all the children, notwithstanding the endeavours of the Governors to provide wet-nurses, has of late been at least as great as it was upon those who were dry nursed when the Hospital was first erected.

To remedy these inconveniencies the Governors convinced of the advantages of wet-nursing (in preference to any other method,) found it necessary to entrust two

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and sometimes three children to be suckled by one nurse. The apparent benefit of this scheme to the woman, *viz.* seven shillings or half a guinea *per* week, instead of three shillings and six-pence, was too great a temptation to be resisted by a person in low life, notwithstanding the difficulty and danger of the undertaking, and the consequences it had usually been attended with. The death of one or more of the children so nursed, having, I am credibly informed, generally followed, and the health of the woman been much impaired by endeavouring to supply a greater quantity of nourishment than she had strength to support; and it will easily be allowed, that the health and life of breeding women are of no small importance to the public.

It deserves likewise to be considered, that none but the worst sort of wet-nurses can fall to the share of the poor foundlings. Women of the most unblameable reputations,

tions, the best morals, and the foundest constitutions will probably be picked out for the use of the nobility and gentry in the first place, those of an inferior kind, for the children of substantial tradesmen, the profits arising from such nurseries being greater than what is allowed by the Hospital, and the prospect of future assistance to themselves and families no inconsiderable object. After both these demands are satisfied, it is not to be expected that a large number of healthy reputable women will be left to supply the purposes of the *Foundling-Hospital*, and in order to procure these, the children of the peasant must often lose the benefit of wet-nursing, and be exposed to the dangers that attended the want of it, to make room for the children of the *Foundling-Hospital*. On any other supposition, how are wet-nurses to be got? It is true that numbers of women lose their children, and it is equally so that death deprives many children of

their mothers, and tho' there are probably more of the former than the latter, and of course some breasts unemployed, I fear the overplus will not be near sufficient to answer the large demands which custom and luxury require for the children of the great and wealthy, much less to supply the wants of the *Foundling-Hospital*. Some few instances there may have been of women so void of humanity, as to send their own children to the Hospital, and take others in exchange. How little such nurses are to be depended on I have already mentioned, but if we view it in another light, such a practice will appear to be absurd and ridiculous. In the first place no milk is gained, nor can it be expected that those women will take more care of the foundlings for the Hospital-allowances of 3 or 3*s.* 6*d.* *per* week, than they would have done of their own children for nothing. The public therefore must give so much *per* week to a mother to take away
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parental connection from the child, whenever it is desired by the parent, who is wicked enough to sell her child's birth-right, *viz.* his place in society, his relations and all the benefits of legitimacy, for a little paltry present advantage.

BUT even supposing that a number of proper nurses could be found, it is a matter of some doubt, whether the same degree of care and attention would be given to Foundlings, as is necessary and usually bestowed on other children who are wet-nursed. When a woman suckles her own child, natural affection spurs her on to a constant care and watchfulness ; and the want of that principle is in a good measure, tho' not altogether, supplied in the nursing the children of the Nobleman, the Gentleman, and the Tradesman, by the enjoyment of present advantages, and the hopes of future kindness and protection, which few people in
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tolerable circumstances, are so inhuman or so ungrateful as to withhold from those nurses who have behaved well, and done their duty. But you must depend entirely on the humanity and good nature of those who are entrusted with the children of the Public, for so they may be justly called, who are deserted by their parents, and not known to their relations.

To all these evils must be added, the inhuman practice which the *Foundling-Hospital* has given rise to, of taking children by force from their mothers breasts; a practice so unnatural, that every person who has the least tenderness of feeling must shudder at the thought of; a practice which reflects disgrace on a civilized country, and is fit only for Barbarians who are destitute of every sentiment of religion or humanity. It is to little purpose that the law provides a remedy in this case, and that the governors have
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been always ready to give their assistance when applied to, as no one surely can be so weak to imagine, that a poor girl distressed, persecuted, and trembling from the future prospect of shame and infamy, which she has unhappily brought upon herself by her misconduct, will have courage and resolution enough to bid defiance, and set herself up in opposition to the cry of a whole parish, headed by the Overseers of the Poor. She must patiently submit to what they determine, how painful soever it be, unless her sufferings have been sharp enough to deprive her of reason, and the dismal apprehensions of parting from her child, have taken away the sense of every other danger, which in two or three cases has actually happened.

It is not my intention to aggravate matters ; it seems however necessary just to touch upon the danger of giving an infectious distemper to a country nurse.

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That many infected children are sent to the Hospital will readily be granted, and notwithstanding the good precautionary rules of the governors, and the care and attention of those appointed to examine the infants, neither of which do I mean to question, there is reason to believe, that diseases have been given by Foundlings to their nurses, and thro' them propagated to their husbands, whereby the health and strength of those who would otherwise have maintained their families, has been impaired, and they themselves have become innocent sufferers for the faults of others, 'Tis to be presumed, that things of this sort have not very frequently happened, but where they have, the mind can scarcely form to itself a picture of greater misery and distress, or more deserving of pity and compassion; and when a healthy child is committed to the care of an infected nurse, as must sometimes have been the case, the consequences will be no less melancholy and deplorable.

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ANOTHER evil that has arisen from the *Foundling-Hospital*, is the prevention of marriages. That it was so in the country is no difficult matter to prove. When an unmarried girl was with child, before the Hospital was open, the apprehensions of shame which she laboured under, the fear of a goal which the father was threatned with, and the great care of the parish-officers that the child should not become chargeable, generally contributed to bring about a marriage; and, strange as it may seem, many couple so brought together, lived happily, and numbers of useful members of society were raised in this manner. But the case has been since strangely altered. Whilst the child could be sent to the *Foundling-Hospital*, the woman, after sending away the infant, removed herself to another county in hopes of preserving her character, the man had nothing to fear, and the parish-officer hugged himself with the thoughts of having got rid of an ex-

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penfive incumbrance, and was fo far from endeavouring to promote marriages of this fort, that if it had been neceffary he would have ufed his utmoft endeavours to have prevented them. And yet from numbers of marriages we muft expect the greateft increafe of our people, and the natural inclination there is in every one to provide for his offspring, is the ftrongeft incitement to induftry, without which the trade, agriculture, and navigation of this country muft foon dwindle and fall to nothing. What fhall we think then of a fcheme which, as far as it goes, prevents matrimony, and puts it in the power of the lower fort of people to have children without the trouble of maintaining them, which nature, reafon, and the laws of God and Man feem to concur in faying 'tis their duty to do? A fcheme which muft be in fome meafure a tax upon the honeft and induftrious, who are the nation's chief fupport, and deferve every encouragement.

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They who have but barely sufficient, from constant labour, to maintain themselves and families, must give a little out of their small pittance to uphold vice and encourage idleness. Let me ask any thinking, honest man, who loves his country, who understands its true interest, and wishes its happiness, whether all this is consistent with sound policy, or reconcileable to strict justice? Where any of the children of the *Foundling-Hospital* have had gentlemen and substantial tradesmen for their fathers, who could have been able to maintain them, which I fear has been sometimes the case, the poor honest, laborious part of mankind have had still greater reason to complain of the injustice that was done them.

IT remains to point out all the advantages of parental authority, which the *Foundling-Hospital* must unavoidably break in upon, and however ridiculous it may appear to some to talk of the forming hand

of the parent, to controul the passions, and improve the understanding, to plant virtue in the tender mind, and correct vice as soon as it begins to appear, and apply all this to the children of the common people, yet a little recollection might perhaps make it clear, that the lowest class of men, however illiterate, are capable from their own experience to teach their children to acquire that sort of knowledge which may be useful in the narrow spheres they are designed to act in, and to guard against those faults which from their particular situation they are most liable to; and here the master is always at hand, attentive to every action, and ready to give advice upon all occasions, and the scholar from a sense of duty and affection better disposed to receive it, knowing it comes from a parent and a friend, who has nothing but the child's happiness in view. But not to refine too much upon this part of the question, it must be allowed that
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parental authority is a principle that ought to be supported in every well regulated society, because it gives so much strength to government, that it is thought by some able writers to have been the origin of government itself.

It is from the parental authority and the mutual connection between the parents and their children, that the first degree of subordination begins, families are but little societies, uniting themselves first to form villages, towns, and cities, and afterwards kingdoms, government must take its rise here, or every thing will run into anarchy and confusion. To destroy these principles implanted in our nature for wise purposes, is to unhinge all order, to deprive children of the benefits of the care and protection of their parents in their infancy, and parents of those returns of gratitude and assistance which they have reason to expect from their children in their old age.

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THE *Foundling-Hospital*, as far as it goes, destroys all these natural ties, so convenient and useful to individuals, so essential to the public peace ; and breeds up a set of people independant, whose breasts have never felt the filial or fraternal affection, so useful to soften the heart, and humanise the brutish passions. It is easier to foresee and prevent, than it may be afterwards to remedy, the numberless mischiefs that might arise to the public in some future time, from a set of people turned loose into the community, so deserted and friendless in the first part of life, and so hardened and unconnected as we must naturally expect them to be afterwards.

BEFORE I quit the subject, it may be proper to enquire how the children of the *Foundling-Hospital* will be qualified to act the parts in life for which they are intended. From past experience we can form no judgment, as none of the foundlings
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can be yet arrived at the age of 20 years, before which time, and indeed a long while after it, we shall be at a loss to guess whether any person is likely to become a useful member of society or not, and must therefore be obliged to argue from reason and probability. To put the children who are maintained by the public, upon a better footing than those who are brought up by the industry of their parents, would be giving too much countenance to vice and idleness; let us therefore suppose them placed in the lowest stations of life, and doing the business of the common soldier, common sailor, and labourer in husbandry, and consider how they are likely to acquit themselves in their several employments. Who will be most fit to do the servile part of husbandry, he that from *his childhood* has been constantly accustomed to the sight and use of the spade, the harrow, the plough, and other implements of that sort, who has been bred up to the feeding

feeding and management of horses, cows and sheep, or he who has been educated at a distance from all these objects? Who is most able to become the hardy soldier, and undergo hunger and cold when his duty makes it necessary, he whom poverty has some times obliged to go almost naked, to have spare meals, and provisions of the coarsest sort, at no set time, nor in any certain quantity, and to lodge in a cottage which perhaps the wind blows thro' in twenty places, or the boy who has dwelt in a warm house, and been regularly fed and well cloathed? Go to the sea-service, and the case is still stronger, they have a continual warfare, they are every hour liable to be called upon to contend with the winds, and the waves of a tempestuous element; can services of that sort be best performed by those who have been bred up in the early part of life as it were in a calm? which is the case of the children of the *Foundling-Hospi-*

Hospital, or by those whom necessity, the best of teachers, has inured to hardships from their infancy, and who when they are turned out into the world, come prepared in body and mind to meet difficulties, to struggle with difficulties, to conquer difficulties? The greatest part of what I have said on this head relates only to one sex, and cannot with any propriety be applied to the other, and whether the female foundlings will be more or less proper to do the business of servants, than those who have been bred up at home by their own parents, is a matter which must be left to the decision of the Ladies; but I am not without my apprehensions, that such females, from the little knowledge they can have of the world when they leave the *Hospital*, will be in danger of becoming a prey to those who are base enough to gratify their appetites at the expence of deluding the unwary, and betraying the innocent.

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THAT there are Foundling Hospitals in *France* and *Portugal*, may be urged as a reason for the necessity of having one in *England*; but surely there is a wide difference between countries which abound with nunneries, where the priests are obliged to celibacy, and a country which is happily freed from these unnatural superstitions, countries whose poor subsists altogether upon charity, and a country (perhaps the only one in *Europe*) where there are laws which entitle them to a maintenance. To lay however all these speculative reasons out of the case, what evidence have we of the utility of Foundling Hospitals in those countries? General accounts of the Hospitals themselves indeed (tho' not published) may be in the hands of some few, but where has the question been so minutely enquired into? Where comparisons so carefully made? Where all the considerations, political, moral, and æconomical, so fully weighed as they have already

ready been in *England*? Till all these difficulties are cleared up, and the consequences that have attended Foundling Hospitals in other countries, are particularly and satisfactorily discussed, no inference can be justly drawn from such precedents.

HAVING now finished what I intended to say, I must submit the case to the candid and impartial reader, to those who from principles of religion and virtue, are the warmest advocates for Hospitals of every kind, whether, considering the great mortality of the *Foundling-Hospital*, the effect it must have on the morals of the people, by encouraging idleness, and giving a check to marriages, and the great inconvenience it might be to the government, to breed up a set of people so unconnected by any ties of relation or friendship, and add to all this, the little hopes there are of the children ever becoming useful mem-

THAT there are Foundling Hospitals in *France* and *Portugal*, may be urged as a reason for the necessity of having one in *England*; but surely there is a wide difference between countries which abound with nunneries, where the priests are obliged to celibacy, and a country which is happily freed from these unnatural superstitions, countries whose poor subsists altogether upon charity, and a country (perhaps the only one in *Europe*) where there are laws which entitle them to a maintenance. To lay however all these speculative reasons out of the case, what evidence have we of the utility of Foundling Hospitals in those countries? General accounts of the Hospitals themselves indeed (tho' not published) may be in the hands of some few, but where has the question been so minutely enquired into? Where comparisons so carefully made? Where all the considerations, political, moral, and æconomical, so fully weighed as they have already

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members of society, and the great expence they have been to the Public ; whether, I say, when all this is taken together, any advantages that have arisen, or are likely to arise, from the Hospital, upon the general Plan of taking in All children, be sufficient to counter-balance all these inconveniences? If this question be answer'd in the negative, I may then venture to affirm, that there was wisdom and humanity in the resolutions of Parliament last sessions to prevent more children being taken in at the public expence, as well as in those which passed in favour of the Hospital, from the same good motives, before the experiment was tried.

F I N I S.

